

## HIT Internet Project ([hitspot.utk.edu](http://hitspot.utk.edu))

Health Information Tennessee (H.I.T.)

When the Tennessee Department of Health began its innovative Community Diagnosis Project in 1995, one of the first issues was the need for ready access to summary statistics and data tables at the local level. The goal was to support and enable 14 regional health councils representing all 95 counties to assess and prioritize community needs and plan for effective prevention and/or intervention. In conjunction with the data management and analysis activities for the Health Status Report, the Internet was the chosen medium for data and report dissemination.

The creation of HIT commenced in January 1997. HIT not only provides the usual assortment of previously calculated health and population statistics, but also utilizes a lesser-used Internet feature, Common gateway Interface (CGI). This innovative feature allows the user the opportunity to query various Tennessee health databases in such a way that personalized charts and tables can be produced upon demand. The requested information is calculated at the moment the query is submitted by a self-modifying SAS program residing on a server computer at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. In this way, information can be presented in an infinitely flexible manner, statewide and substate comparisons can be made locally, and access can be widespread and multifocal.

Anyone with Internet capabilities can access the HIT site at [hitspot.utk.edu](http://hitspot.utk.edu).

If you have questions about the HIT Internet Project, you may want to contact the group responsible for the development of the HIT site. You may use the address provided below.

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